箱

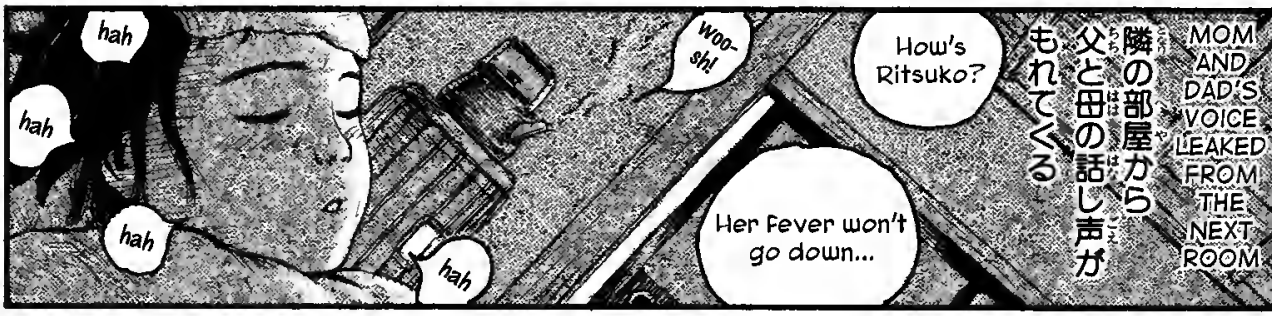
小田ひで次

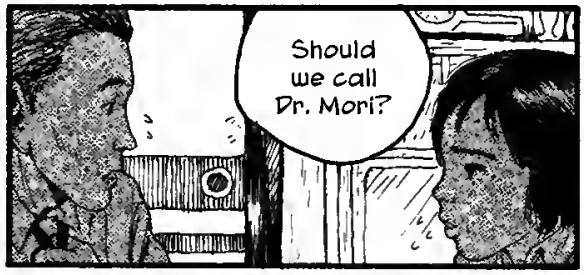
Story-10

Box

Oda Hideji

gurgle
hah
hah
hah
WHEN WAS IT?
I HAD A REALLY HIGH FEVER WHEN I WAS YOUNG
あれは いつごろだったろう
幼い私が高熱に うなされている——


hah
hah
hah
hah
woo-sh!
How's Ritsuko?
Her fever won't go down...
MOM AND DAD'S VOICE LEAKED FROM THE NEXT ROOM
隣の部屋から 父と母の話し声が もれてくる


Should we call Dr. Mori?

WHEN I CAME TO, THERE WAS SOMEONE AT THE FOOT OF MY BED
ふと気がつくと 枕元に誰かが 立っている——

WHO WAS IT...? DUE TO THE FEVER, I CAN REMEMBER HIS FACE...
HE HAD GLITTERING BLONDE HAIR
それが誰だったのか……
高熱だったせいか 顔もよく思い出せない けど……かきくけこ
キラキラ輝く やわらかそうな 金髪の少年 だった——

Puffy...
hah
...blonde hair...
hah
hah
plop
Ow!!
I want to...
glittering...
hah
I want to touch...
A present? For me...
Huh?
Let me give you this...
Or are you proposing to me?
That box is a magical box
But it sure is pretty...
Is it made of silver?
It must be really expensive...
If you're in trouble and don't know what to do, open that box and make a wish. The box will grant your wish.
haha...
Oh... A get-well-soon gift, huh...

Huh... Did you just say... magical box?
Yes! But you can only use its power...
Hmm...
once then never again
Really... anything?
Why don't you try it?
Yea, maybe I should try using to make this fever go down...
click
No! If I try it, then I won't be able to use it again!
slam
.....
stop
I can wait out this fever myself!
If I use something that can only be used once...
Is that okay?
hah
hah
hah
Isn't it tough?
it'd be a waste! A waste!!

My, my
Most people open it right then and there
like world con-quest...
hah
hah
Once... I get better
or something better
hah
I'll wish for a castle...
clack
Guess I can't convince you... but keep this a secret, okay!
If I don't keep it a secret, then everyone
Of course
Huh!?
.....
would try to steal...
I wanted...
hah
hah
to touch his hair...
hah
少年は消えるようにいなくなり 私の記憶もそこで途切れた……
少年はいったい誰だったのか すべては高熱のための幻だったのか……
THE BOY VANISHED, AND THAT'S ALL THAT I REMEMBER... WHO WAS THE BOY? WAS HE JUST AN ILLUSION CAUSED BY THE FEVER...?

でも……
BUT...
click
カタ…
あの箱は
今もここにある
I STILL HAVE THAT BOX...
たった一度の
大事なことのために
使おうと
27歳になった今まで
とうとう開けずに
きてしまった
NOW 27, I STILL HAVEN'T USED IT FOR ANYTHING IMPORTANT
It really is pure silver...
Hwah---
Hwah---
Here
Here
What is it? Did you pee?
Uw-ah---
Uw-ah---

Ugyahh
Uwahh
What is it?
You just drank your milk
Okay
Okay
Uwah
Hwah
Are you sick?
Why are you crying?
Hwah---
Uwah---
.....
It'd be great if you can learn to speak soon...
Ahhh
Awoo
No, no, I can't use it on that!
It'd be a waste. A waste
Maybe I should use the box so he can learn to speak...
結局……いつももったいないって言って……
開けるタイミング逃してきた気がするなあ……
I ALWAYS... END UP SAYING THAT IT'D BE A WASTE... I FEEL LIKE I'VE LET THE PERFECT TIMINGS TO USE IT SLIP...
ハア

.....
Wait! Don't be hasty!
.....Using it... on this... would be...
I really am dumb, huh...
I need to get smarter...
BACK THEN, TOO...
あの時も……
I WON OVER THE TEMPTATION, BUT JUST AS EXPECTED...
誘惑に勝って 自力でがんばったけど さすがにあの時は……
Woo!
Yay!
I should have opened it
Congrats!
Kyah!
WHEN DAD GOT IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT...
父が交通事故にあった時は……
HE DIED IMMEDIATELY, SO THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR ME TO USE IT...
即死だったから 使う間もなかった……

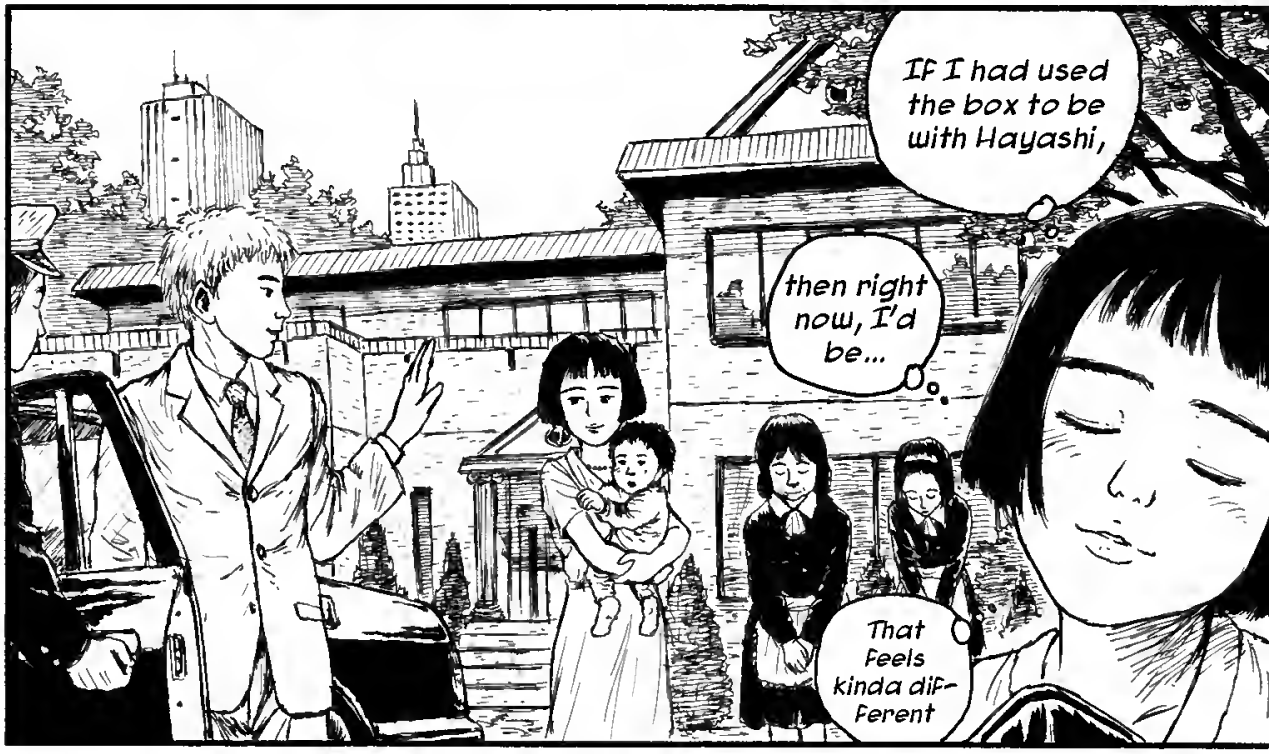
WE HAD A MYSTERIOUS CHEMISTRY AND BECAME FRIENDS IMMEDIATELY, SO WE BECAME THE TALK OF THE OFFICE...
私たちは不思議と気が合ってすぐに仲良くなったからみんなの噂にもなって……
BUT THE ONE TIME THAT CONFUSED ME THE MOST WAS WHEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH MY COWORKER, HAYASHI
でも一番迷ったのは慎重で奥手の私が同僚の林くんに恋した時だったな
企画
No way...
Hayashi is the son of the CEO of a big conglomerate, right? Are you after his money?
What, are you girls talking about me?
It has nothing to do with you, Shouhei!
Hayashi... Are you going to inherit... your father's conglomerate?
Hmmm~ Sooner or later...

If I'm with you, Ritsuko,
I feel like we can do something interesting...
This might work...
Hey, why don't we start a new venture together?
Haha, really!?
You don't seem to want that...
Hmmm... I feel like I rely too much on my parents...
I might not need the box...
congrats!
congrats!
Now we'll proceed to lighting the candles

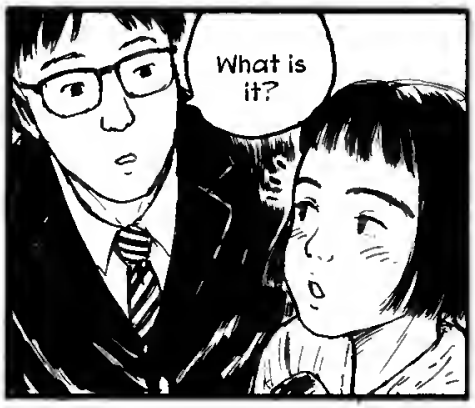
彼は私のこと女性としては見てなかった…
HE DIDN'T SEE ME AS A WOMAN…
結局……IN THE END…
Please give a round of applause
What's wrong, Ritsuko?
It was nothing like that!
Did you go out with him?
Coming~
ding dong
ding dong
Maybe it was back then…
Sniff… You're too dense, Shouhei!
I see, so you liked…

Shou-hei!
Back then, I felt vulnerable
He was being nice to me, so I...
What are you doing?

You're home early, Shouhei
Yea


If I had used the box to be with Hayashi,
then right now, I'd be...
That feels kinda dif-ferent

Ah... nothing
Want to take bath?
Yea


What is it?

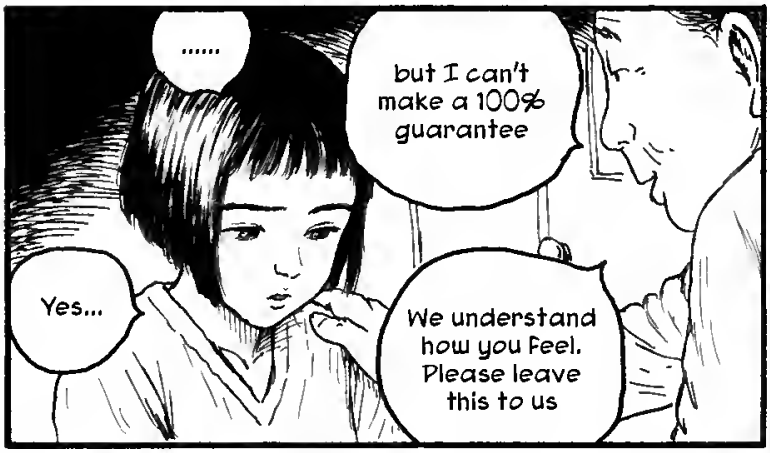
Are you alright?
But he's a good person... and I don't hate him...
Give Papa a kiss, You
How did I end up with such a normal man...
When will I open it?
If I keep saying that it's a waste, then I'll grow old and die without using it...
katonk
swish
swish
Maybe I Failed...
I can't get myself to throw it away either...
It's like my entire life...
revolves around that box...
splash
Hah...
Why did that boy give me such a thing?
kata

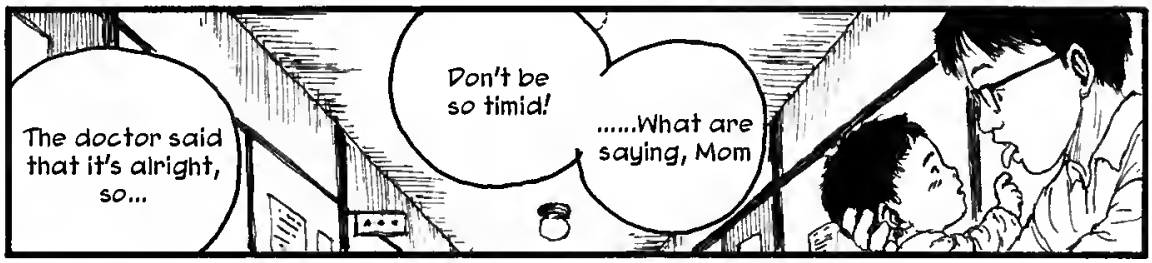
Ritsuko!!
Yes
Huh!?
.....

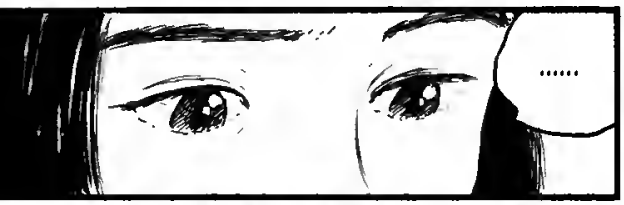
N-...
No way!!
Ritsuko! Y-...
Your mother collapsed and has been taken to the hospital...

It's not a difficult surgery,
But, doctor...

Just tell me!
Will the surgery cure her?
Well, calm down


.....
but I can't make a 100% guarantee
Yes...
We understand how you feel. Please leave this to us


The doctor said that it's alright, so...
Don't be so timid!
.....What are saying, Mom


.....

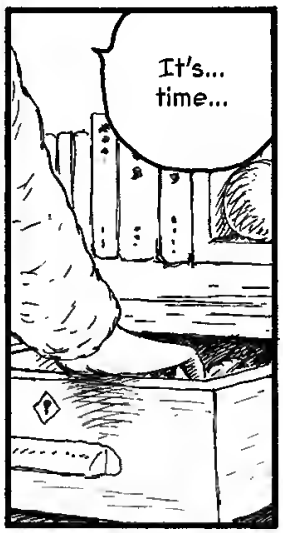
I got to see you get married and have a child of your own
There's nothing else that makes me more happy than that...
Mom...

It's okay. I have no regrets...

A wish... I don't have one...
Hey, Mom
What if God told you that He would grant you one wish?
Besides... I already had my wish granted
Huh?
You had a terrible fever that even the doctor couldn't help...
Before you started going to grade school,
Even though I didn't believe in God, I made a selfish wish
Back then...
So I don't have any more wishes...
You made a miraculous recovery...
I'm hungry...

I'm going to
have my only wish granted as well
Forget it!
.....
Wait for me, Mom
Mom... When I was young... did I have any foreign friends?
Huh?
もう後悔したくない
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE REGRETS!
Sorry, I'll be back!
Take care of Mom
Hey
手術が失敗することだってあるんだ
Ahh... Why was I so confused!?
EVEN THE SURGERY CAN FAIL. I DON'T WANT IT TO LEAVE A MENTAL SCAR ON ME...
手術で痛い思いさせちゃかわいそうだしね……

待っててねお母さん！
WAIT FOR ME, MOM!
It's time for us to part...


It's... time...

Ritsuko!!

Huh?

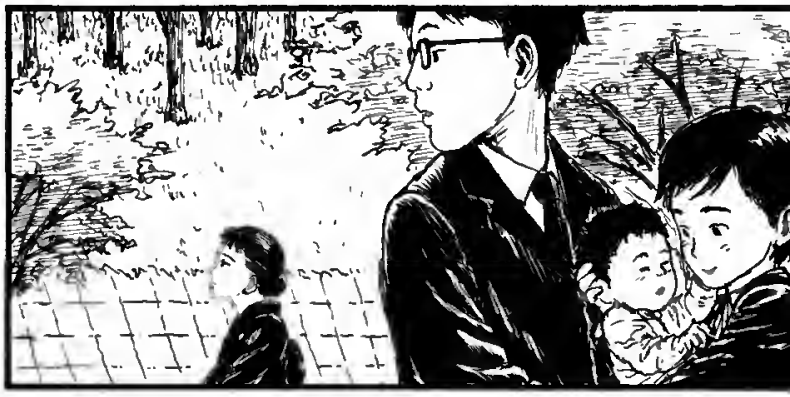
!?
Ah

Her condition suddenly took a turn...

NO... そ
NO
WAY!!
そんな!!

ごめんね
お母さん……
SORRY, MOM...
私が……
もっと早く箱を
開けていれば……
IF I... HAD OPENED THE BOX SOONER.....

Are you okay?

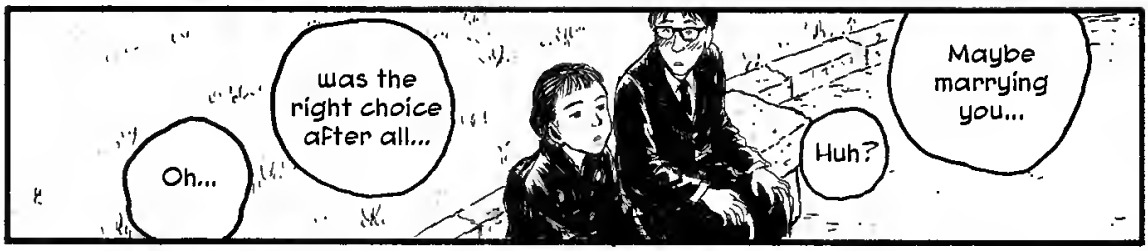


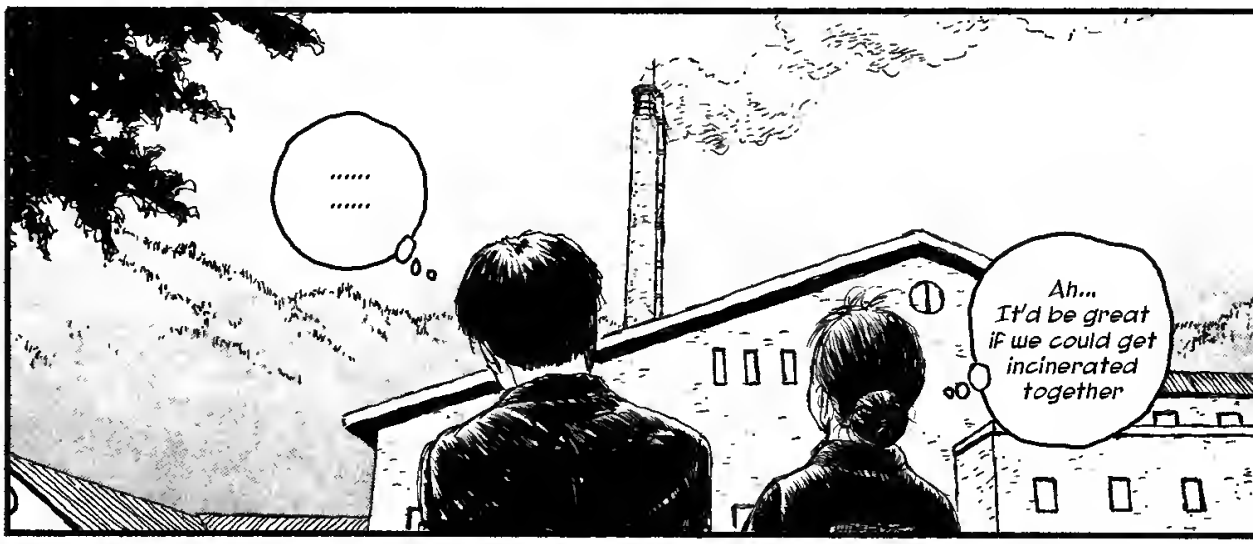
?
If you could use magic just once...
what would you use it for?

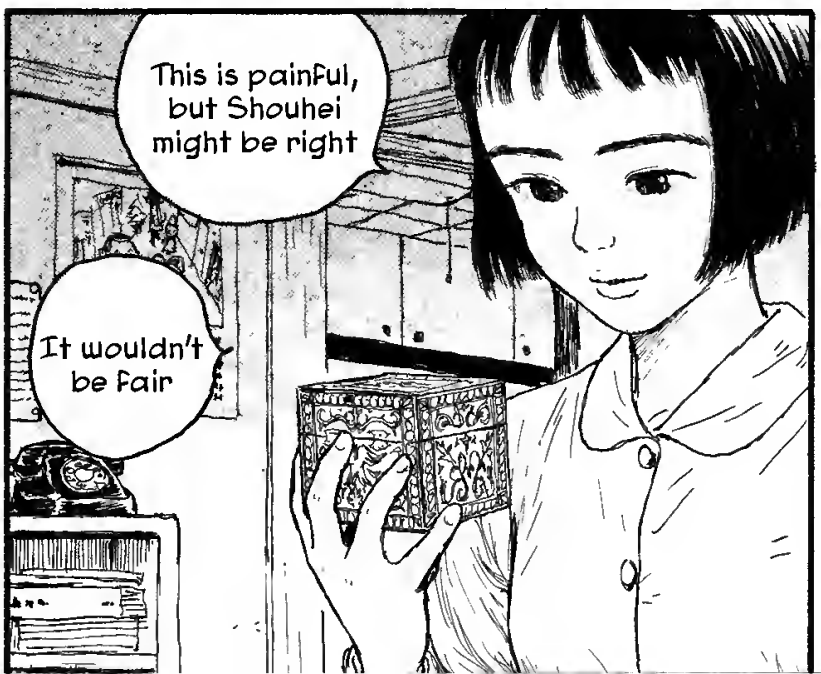
Shouhei, if...
Huh?

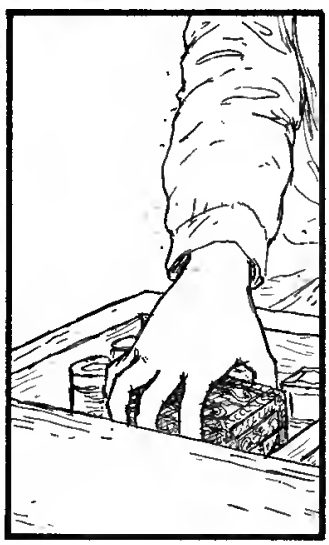
I've thought about that when I was a kid...
but when I get found out, people would call that cheating, right? That's why...
I wouldn't use it!
Just pretend there is!
There's no such thing like that...
Even if you ask me that...
Don't you have any wishes? Or are you a coward?
Why... do you think like that?
Even if you ask me that...
.....
wouldn't it be cooler... to not use it?
Well... Even if I had that power...
.....

Huh

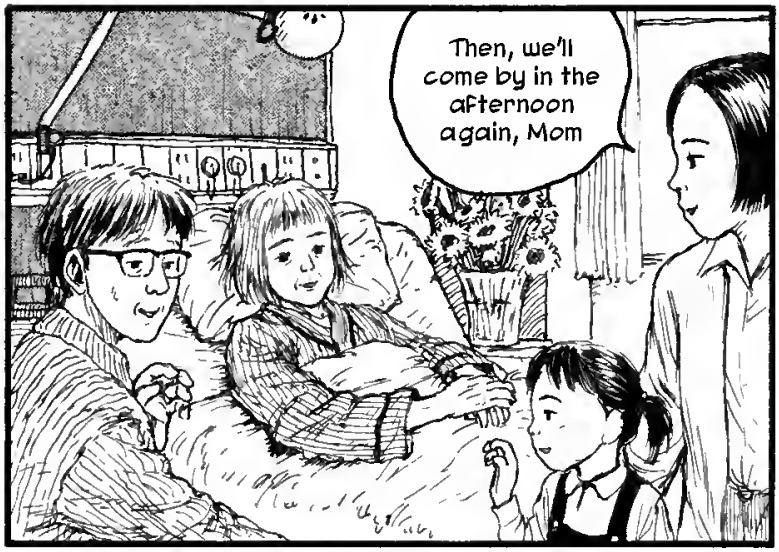

Oh...
was the right choice after all...
Huh?
Maybe marrying you...


.....
.....
Ah... It'd be great if we could get incinerated together


This is painful, but Shouhei might be right
It wouldn't be Fair

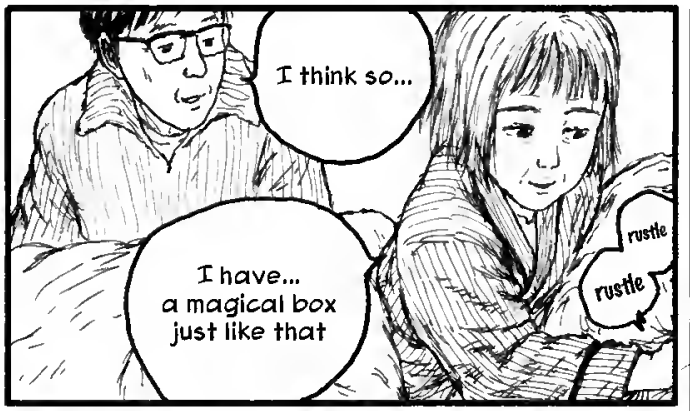


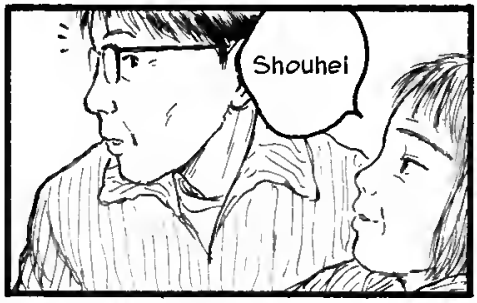
私はそれ以来
力を使うその時を
待つこともなくなり
箱に振り回されることも
なくなった……
EVER SINCE THEN,
I'VE STOPPED
WAITING FOR THE
RIGHT TIME TO USE
THE BOX, AND MY LIFE
STOPPED REVOLVING
AROUND IT...
そしてこの箱に
本当に願いをかなえる
力があるのかも
どうでもよくなって
THEN I STOPPED
CARING ABOUT
WHETHER OR NOT
THIS BOX REALLY HAS
THE POWER TO
GRANT A WISH.
BEFORE I KNEW IT,
THE BOX AND MY
MEMORIES OF THAT
MYSTERIOUS BOY
BECAME MY
PRECIOUS
TREASURES...
不思議な少年の
思い出とともに
いつしか私の大切な
宝物になった——

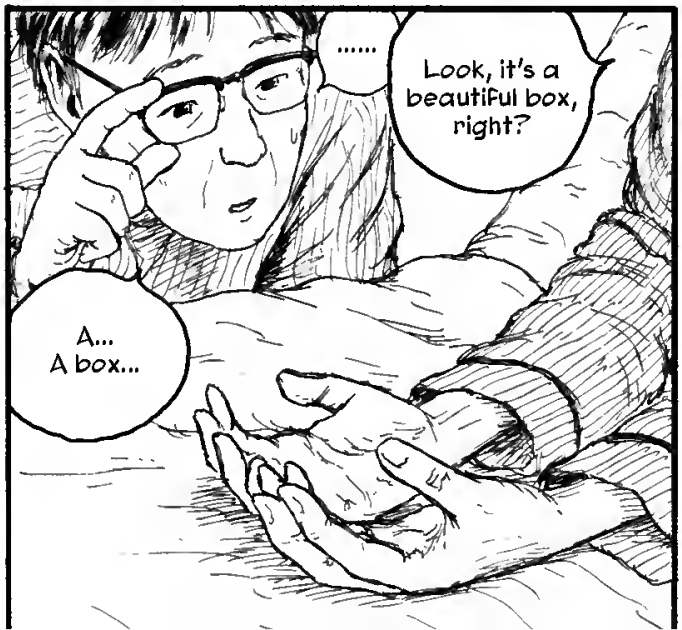

Then, we'll come by in the afternoon again, Mom

星クリニック
クリニック
Okay, let's go
Get well soon, grandma

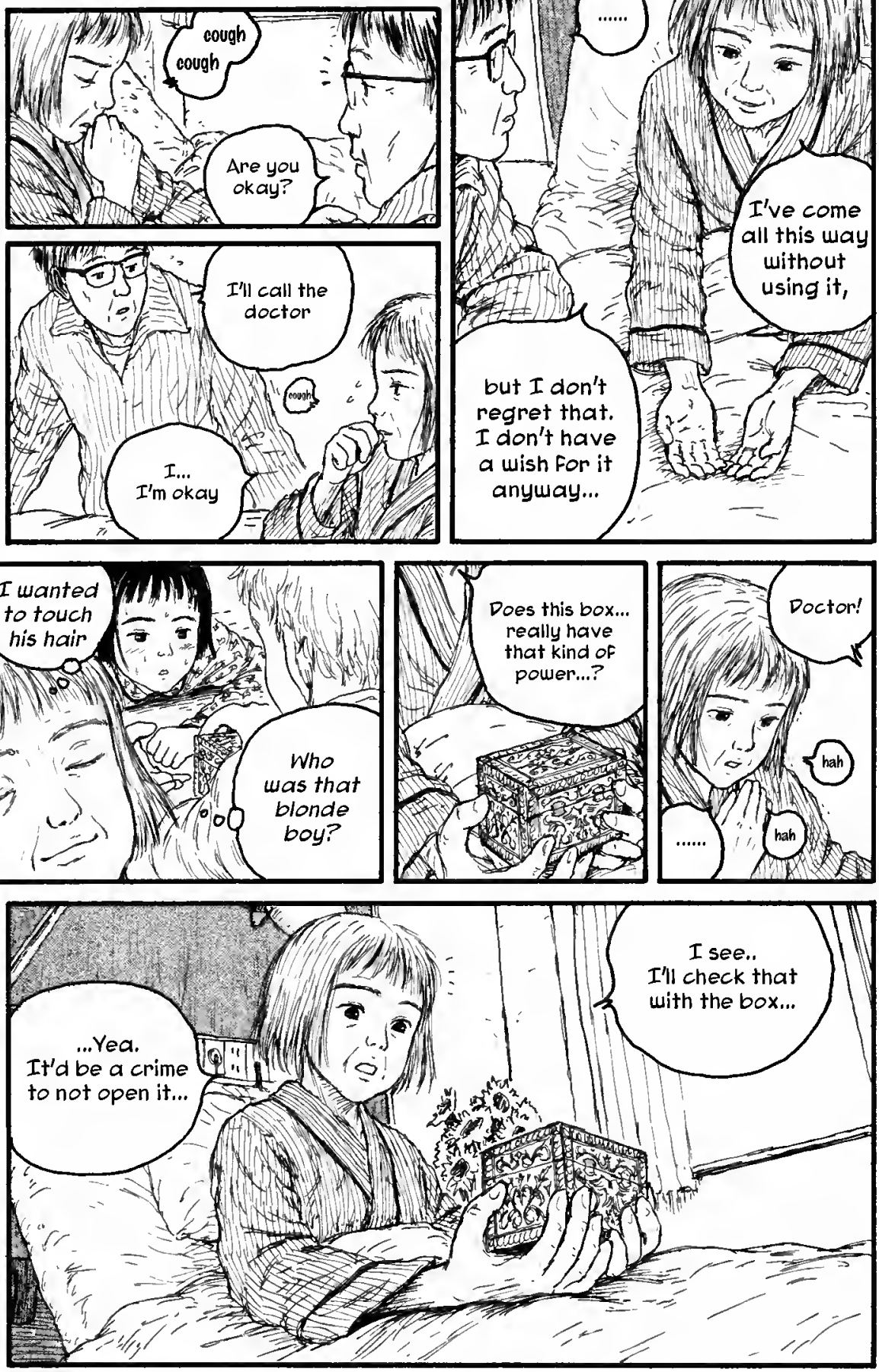
bye bye


I think so...
I have... a magical box just like that
rustle
rustle

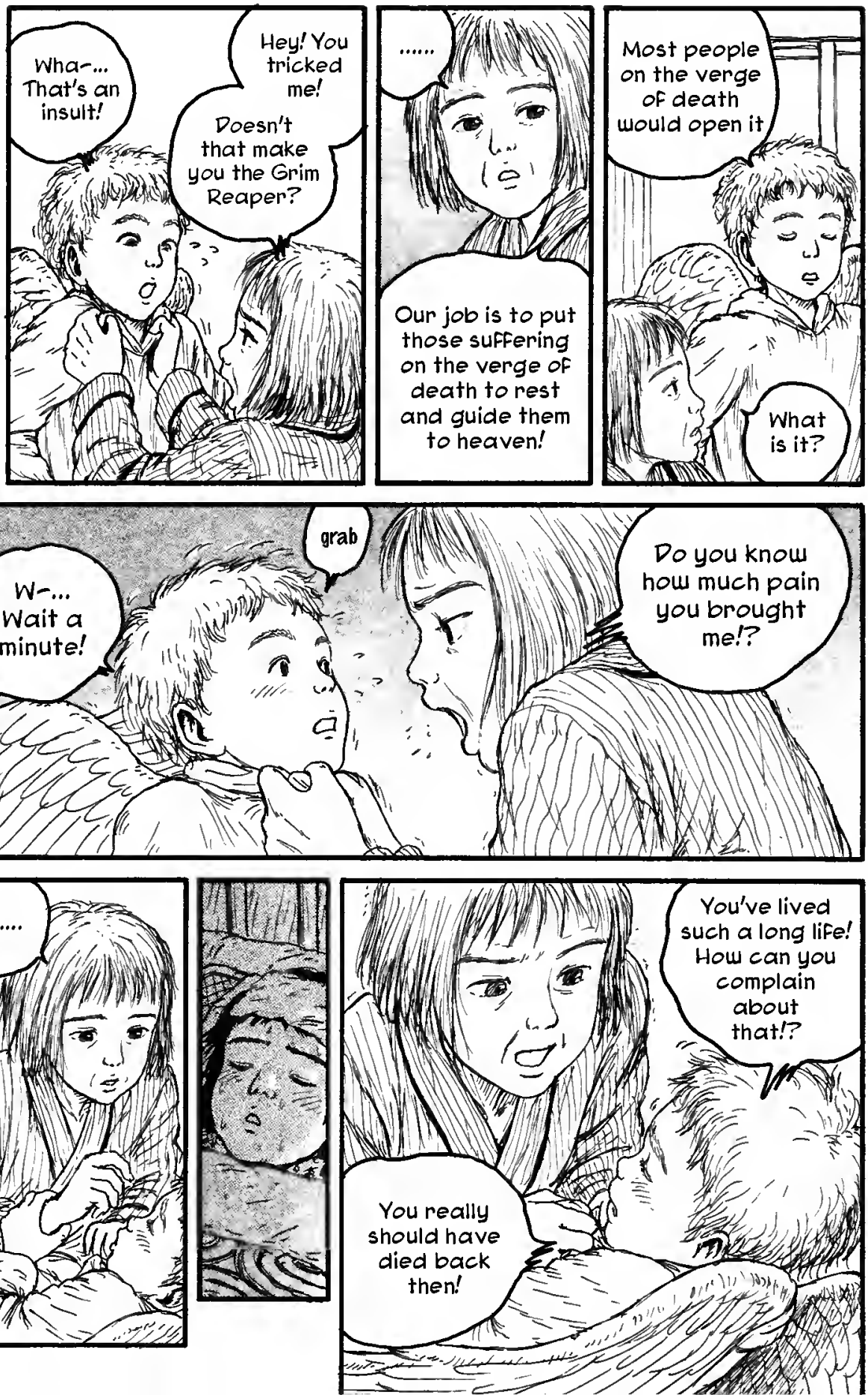

Shouhei

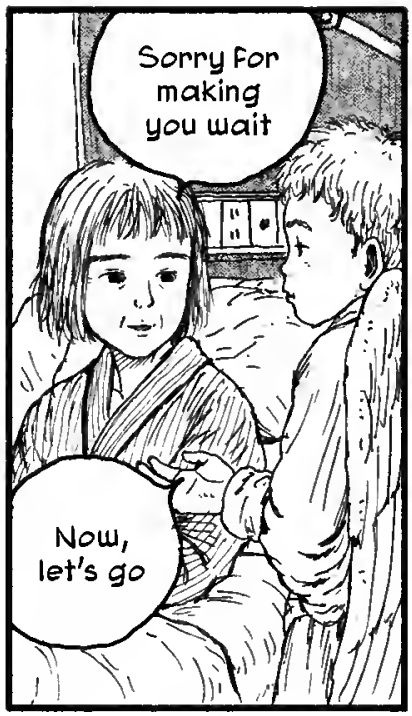

.....
Look, it's a beautiful box, right?
A... A box...

I've kept a secret from you
Huh?
We've talked... about magic before, right?

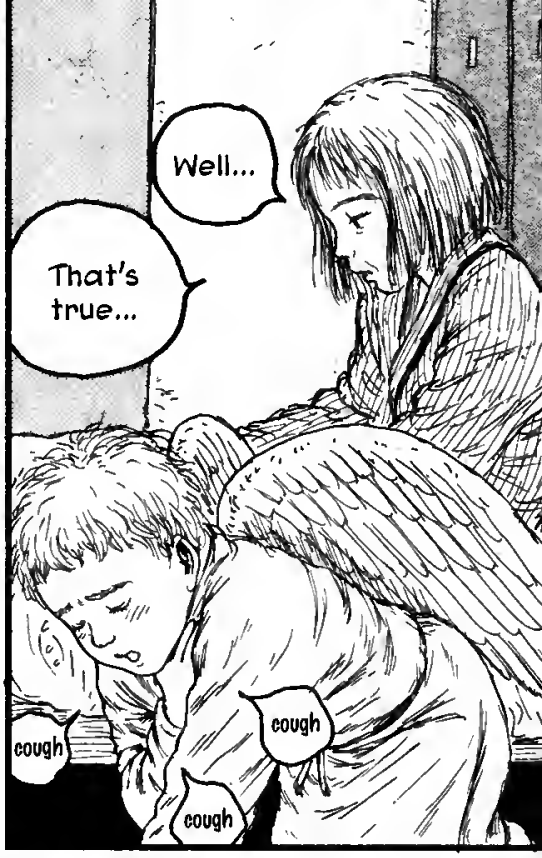

cough
cough
Are you okay?
.....
I've come all this way without using it,
but I don't regret that. I don't have a wish for it anyway...
I'll call the doctor
cough
I... I'm okay
I wanted to touch his hair
Who was that blonde boy?
Does this box... really have that kind of power...?
Doctor!
hah
hah
.....
I see.. I'll check that with the box...
...Yea. It'd be a crime to not open it...

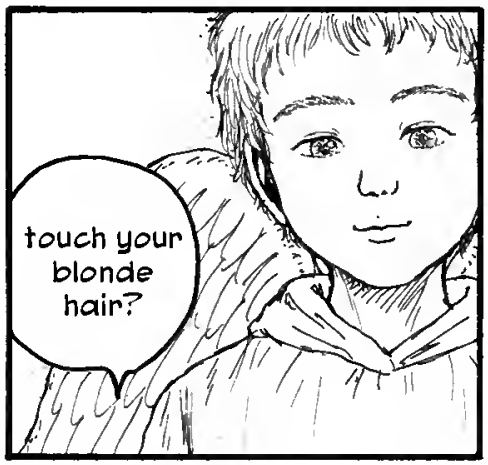
!!
ba-dump
ba-dump
creak...
My my
.....
but I was so wrong
either because you're greedy or stubborn
Oh my...
.....
I was sure that you'd open it back then,
You finally opened it


Wha-... That's an insult!
Hey! You tricked me!
Doesn't that make you the Grim Reaper?
.....
Our job is to put those suffering on the verge of death to rest and guide them to heaven!
Most people on the verge of death would open it
What is it?
W-... Wait a minute!
grab
Do you know how much pain you brought me!?
.....
You've lived such a long life! How can you complain about that!?
You really should have died back then!


Sorry for making you wait
Now, let's go

Then... that means that I win this game!
That's right. You made me wait for so long!


Well...
That's true...
cough
cough
cough

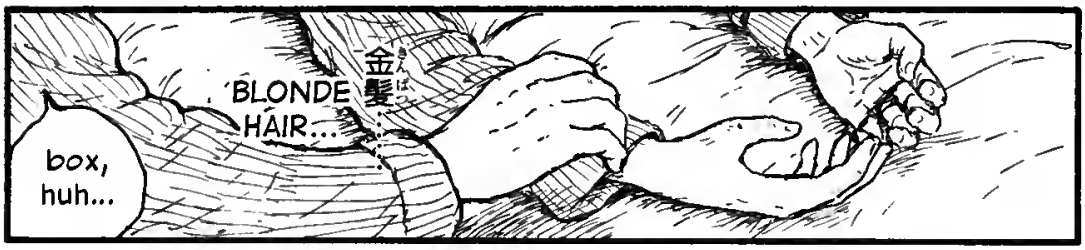

touch your blonde hair?

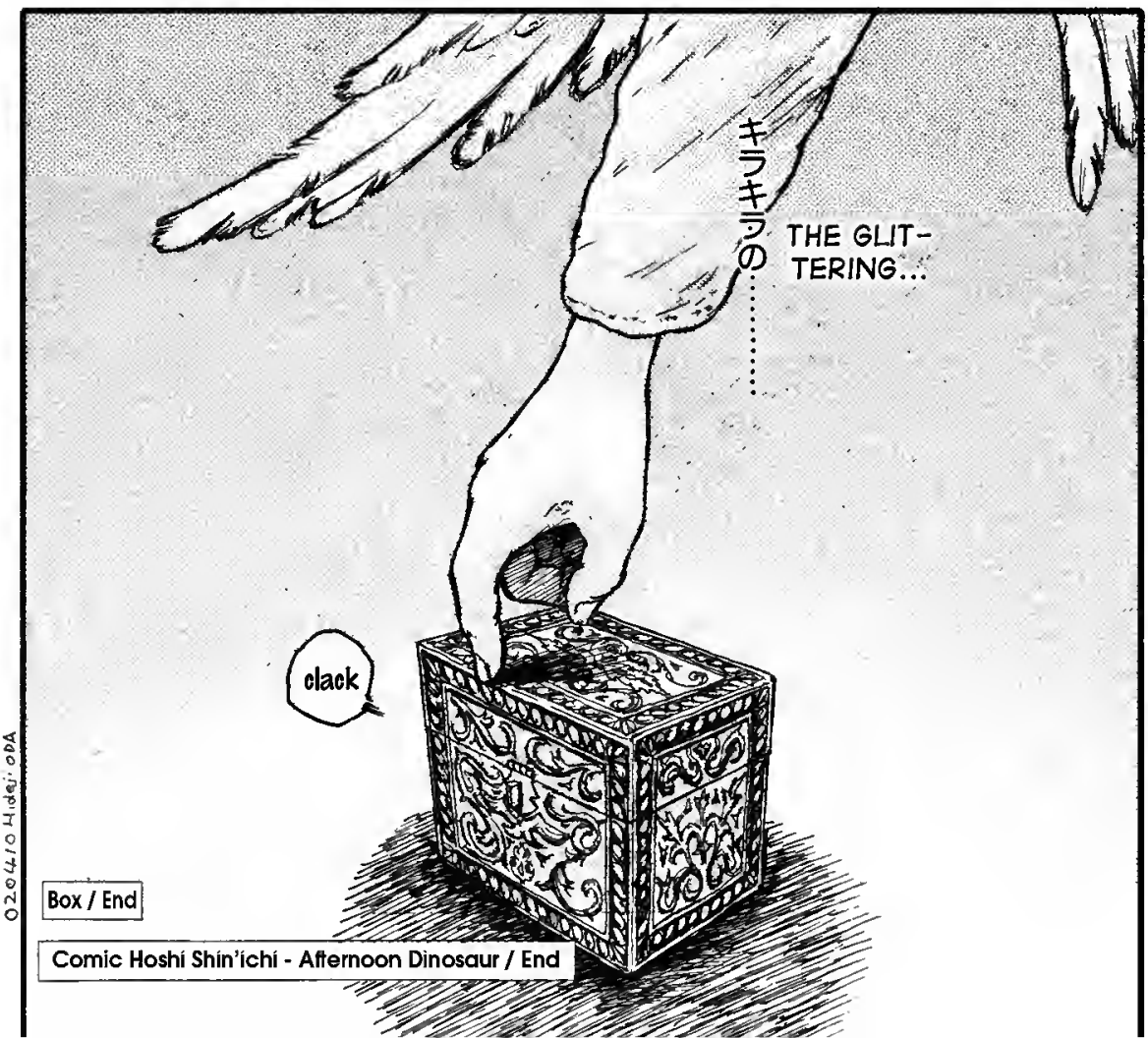
Can I...

Hey
Hm?

As much as you want...

カラ…
……
…
I'm sorry, but...
Ritsuko...



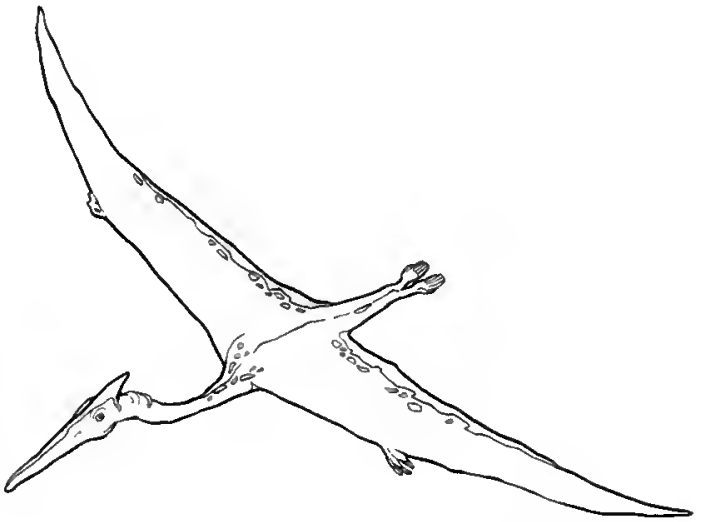


Box / End

Comic Hoshi Shin'ichi - Afternoon Dinosaur / End

020410 Hideji ODA

《収録作品》
「ボッコちゃん」2002年ミステリーボニータ11月号
「金色のピン」2001年ミステリーボニータ9月号
「天使考」2003年ミステリーボニータ2月号
「殺し屋ですのよ」2002年ミステリーボニータ2月号
「おーい　でてこーい」2003年ミステリーボニータ2月号
「午後の恐竜」2002年ミステリーボニータ11月号
「現代の人生」2001年ミステリーボニータ9月号
「生活維持省」2003年ミステリーボニータ4月号
「夜の事件」2002年ミステリーボニータ6月号
「箱」2002年ミステリーボニータ6月号



カバー&表紙イラスト／志村貴子
口絵イラスト／木々

Comic Hoshi Shin'ichi volume 1

Raws bought and scanned by myself
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